

CATHOLIC • ACTION •

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June, 1948

REACTIONS TO COMMUNIST CONTROL LEGISLATION

Rev. John F. Cronin, S.S.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY LIFE
CATHOLIC ACTION STUDY IN MAYNOOTH COLLEGE
NEW ORLEANS BOUND!
REPORTS ON CATHOLIC ACTIVITY
THE N.C.C.M. AND YOU

Housing Legislation Advocated
Church and State Relationships

A NATIONAL MONTHLY PUBLISHED BY THE
NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

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"Over a manifold activity of the laity, carried on in various localities according to the needs of the times, is placed the National Catholic Welfare Conference, an organization which supplies a ready and well-adapted instrument for your episcopal ministry."—Pope Pius XII.

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The N. C. W. C. is a common agency acting under the authority of the bishops to promote the welfare of the Catholics of the country.

It has for its incorporated purposes "unifying, coordinating and organizing the Catholic people of the United States in works of education, social welfare, immigrant aid and other activities."

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Annually at the general meeting of the bishops, detailed reports are submitted by the administrative bishops of the Conference and authorization secured for the work of the coming year.

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It seeks to inform the life of America of right fundamental principles of religion and morality.

It is a central clearing house of information regarding activities of Catholic men and women.

N. C. W. C. is comprised of the following departments and bureaus:

EXECUTIVE—Bureaus maintained: *Immigration, National Center Fraternity of Christian Doctrine, Information, Publications, Business and Auditing, and CATHOLIC ACTION, monthly publication, N. C. W. C.*

YOUTH—Facilitates exchange of information regarding the philosophy, organization,

LAY ORGANIZATIONS—Includes the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Catholic Youth Council, the federating agency for all existing, approved Catholic youth groups; contacts and evaluates national governmental and non-governmental youth organizations and youth servicing organizations.

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The N. C. C. M. maintains at its national headquarters a Catholic Evidence Bureau, sponsors three weekly nationwide radio programs—the Catholic Hour over the National Broadcasting Company's Network, and the Hour of Faith over the American Broadcasting Company's Network, and the Catholic program in the "Faith in Our Time" series on the Mutual Broadcasting System—and conducts a Catholic Radio Bureau.

The N. C. C. W. through its National Committee System maintains an adult education service, transmitting to its affiliates information and suggestions in all fields covered by the N. C. W. C., and conducting Institutes and Regional Conferences for leadership training; it cooperates with War Relief Services—N. C. W. C. in a continuing clothing project for children; from 1921 to 1947 it sponsored the National Catholic School of Social Service.

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CATHOLIC ACTION records monthly the work of the Conference and its affiliated organizations. It presents our common needs and opportunities. Its special articles are helpful to every Catholic organization and individual.

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THE right of religious bodies to take an official position on certain types of economic and social problems—labor legislation, for example—is sometimes challenged by well-meaning individuals who feel, as they sometimes put it, that the churches ought to “stick to their last.” Even these critics, however, would probably be slow to censure the churches for taking an interest in the housing problem, for good housing is so indispensable to the moral health of the community that the churches are expected, by almost everybody, to interest themselves in the problem. This, in part, may account for the fact that so little public attention was paid to the official statement on the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Housing Bill (S. 866) which was released by the Social Action Department of N.C.W.C. in April over the signature of the Director of the Department, the Reverend Raymond A. McGowan.

Father McGowan's statement, which was read from the floor of the Senate by Senator James E. Murray of Montana, urged “the speedy enactment of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill as a partial solution to the national housing problem”—a problem which, as the statement continues, “is playing havoc with the stability of family life in the United States.” The Social Action Department does not expect the government to solve the entire housing crisis. On the contrary, it insists that private enterprise has the primary responsibility to provide decent housing for all of our citizens. Nevertheless, to the extent that private enterprise is unable or unwilling to solve the problem, the government, says the statement, “will serve the interests of social justice if it takes up the slack by supplementing the efforts of private builders.”

Because it feels that the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill is at least a minimum step towards the carrying out of the government's responsibility in the

housing field, the Social Action Department respectfully urges that the Bill be enacted as soon as possible.

FATHER Wilfrid Parsons, S.J., formerly editor of *America* and presently teaching political economy at the Catholic University of America, has just published a timely and brilliant essay on the relationship of church and state in the United States called, significantly, “The First Freedom.” Father Parsons thinks that the recent Supreme Court decisions, enunciating their novel interpretation of the First Amendment, lack historical and constitutional validity and he demonstrates by chapter and verse the violence that has been wrought upon the Amendment. Since the Court seems to be more and more a mere barometer registering the prevailing climate of public opinion, the real appeal from its secularistic premises must be made to the people through education in our genuine American traditions. Father Parsons' study becomes, accordingly, an extremely interesting and important essay which no informed and sincere American can afford to ignore.

To facilitate its distribution, the Business Office of N.C.W.C. will have copies available at \$2.25.

Indicative of the sampling of current thinking reflected in “The First Freedom” are the preface by Archbishop Keough, chairman, Department of Education, N.C.W.C., and Father Parsons' credits to the late Archbishop Ryan of Omaha, Doctor Richard Purcell of the Catholic University of America, Mr. George Reed of the Legal Department, N.C.W.C., and more than a dozen other similarly placed persons.

A salute is due to a veteran journalist and scholar who has produced a “must” book that is quite pleasing to read.

REACTIONS TO COMMUNIST CONTROL LEGISLATION

REV. JOHN F. CRONIN, S.S.

DISCUSSION of proposals to regulate Communism in the United States has reached a fever peak in recent weeks. Organizations have been rushing to take sides on the Mundt-Nixon bill. Congress has been flooded with mail.

Much of the adverse comment has been openly organized by the Communist Party. It has rallied its supporters to an all-out attack on this bill, technically known as the Subversive Activities Control Act, 1948. Unfortunately, some non-Communists have been taken in by propaganda indirectly emanating from the Party.

The proposed law itself seems quite mild, in the light of the hysterical reactions to it. The only important new provision is that which forces Communists into the open. The Communist Party is required to register its members. Communist front organizations must list their officers and sources and use of funds. There are other provisions to the bill, but they are mostly refinements of existing laws on treason and sedition.

The bill frankly states that Communists are working in the interests of the Soviet Union. They are not a genuine political party, but rather a fifth column of a foreign power. Moreover, they have achieved great success through infiltration of various influential groups. Hence it is proposed to label their members and thus prevent secret and conspiratorial action.

That the Communist Party would react adversely is only to be expected. They have distorted the bill, claiming that it would outlaw strikes, efforts to secure racial justice, and even criticisms of the government. Even a cursory reading of the bill, however, indicates how fantastic are these interpretations.

Objections from anti-Communist liberal groups are more serious, and deserve consideration here. Thus, one organization holds that the labeling of front groups as Communist-controlled would stifle liberal movements here. It is asserted that many will hesitate to join any progressive move-

ment, lest it be exposed as Red-dominated. Proponents of the bill, however, take an exactly opposite position. They claim that current Communist infiltration methods have cast a shadow over many reform movements. Sympathetic persons are reluctant to sponsor even worthwhile causes, because of past experience with Communist infiltration. If pro-Soviet groups were clearly labeled as such, really liberal organizations would be cleared from undeserved suspicion.

A large labor organization is suspicious lest innocent persons be stigmatized because they inadvertently joined front groups. But the bill provides for such contingencies by requiring only the names of officers of these groups. It is true that a few "innocents" may be officers of Communist-controlled organizations. But it is a real question whether such persons should be protected for their mistakes, at the expense of the general welfare. Would physicians hesitate to condemn a drug proved unsound, merely to spare the feelings of colleagues who had unwisely endorsed it?

The agitation of liberal groups is more difficult to understand, when it is known that outstanding liberals were consulted in framing the legislation. Among these were Adolph Berle, Morris Ernst, and Louis Waldman. The Committee Report accompanying the bill (House Report No. 1844) is a model of moderation and fairness. Its language is carefully drawn, and its definitions are clear and definite.

Psychologists maintain that violent outbursts, not explainable by surface facts, are usually caused by underlying fears and repressions. Such is probably the case with non-Communist hostility towards the Mundt-Nixon bill. Liberals fear that this may be the opening wedge of reaction and general suppression of reform movements.

One fear is that a hostile Attorney General would distort the bill into a weapon against all liberals. But if the public and the courts would tolerate such an obvious twisting of the clear wording of the law, then freedom of thought

would be already dead. Again, many distrust automatically any legislation coming from the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Yet, the moderation and care shown in this bill indicate the presence of new blood on the Committee.

To this writer, the proposed law is in the American tradition. It seeks to expose fraud and deceit, rather than control thought and opinion. It is

more akin to the Pure Food and Drug Acts, the Securities Acts, and fraud statutes than it is to totalitarian repression. Communism thrives on deceit and secrecy. If it is forced to work openly, it will do little harm. Such is the philosophy of the Mundt-Nixon bill. Only those whose deeds are evil need fear light. If Communists are real Americans, as they proclaim, then they will not hesitate to work in the open.

EXCERPTS FROM COMMITTEE REPORT ON SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES CONTROL ACT, 1948

(H. Report No. 1844)

"The need for legislation to control Communist activities in the United States cannot be questioned.

"Ten years of investigation by the Committee on Un-American Activities and by its predecessors have established: (1) That the Communist movement in the United States is foreign-controlled; (2) that its ultimate objective with respect to the United States is to overthrow our free American institutions in favor of a Communist totalitarian dictatorship to be controlled from abroad; (3) that its activities are carried on by secret and conspiratorial methods; and (4) that its activities, both because of the alarming march of Communist forces abroad and because of the scope and nature of Communist activities here in the United States, constitute an immediate and powerful threat to the security of the United States and to the American way of life.

"The conclusion that the Communist movement constitutes a threat to the security of the United States and to the American way of life is not the cry of alarmists.

"The Communist program of conquest through treachery, deceit, infiltration, espionage, sabotage, corruption, and terrorism has been carried out in country after country and is an ever-growing threat in other countries. There is ample evidence that one of the primary objectives of the world Communist movement, directed from within the most powerful existing Communist totalitarian dictatorship, is to repeat this pattern in the United States.

"There is incontrovertible evidence of the fact that the Communist Party of the United States is dominated by such totalitarian dictatorship and that it is one of the principal instrumentalities used by the world Communist movement, directed from

within that totalitarian dictatorship, in its ruthless and tireless endeavor to advance the world march of communism.

"The findings, which support these conclusions, and the vast quantity of evidence on which they are based, are set forth in detail in the numerous reports which this committee and its predecessors have printed and circulated. Corroboration has been supplied by independent and exhaustive research by other committees of Congress."

* * *

"In considering the merits of the previous proposals before it, the committee found that it was confronted with a most perplexing and difficult problem, one of which the framers of the Constitution could have had little conception, and one which required the most comprehensive analysis and study.

"The committee approached the problem with care and restraint because it is believed essential that any legislation recommended be strictly in accordance with our constitutional traditions. How to protect freedom from those who would destroy it without infringing upon the freedom of all our people presents a question fraught with constitutional and practical difficulties. We must not mortally wound our democratic framework in attempting to protect it from those who threaten to destroy it.

"There are no doubt some, whose opposition to communism is beyond question, who contend that no legislation should be adopted because of the grave constitutional questions involved. The committee believes, however, that the Constitution does not deny to the Congress the power to enact laws which will defend the Nation from those who would use

liberties guaranteed by the Constitution to destroy it.

"In considering the problem, the committee found it necessary at the outset to distinguish those features of Communist activity against which legislation cannot and should not be directed, from those in the case of which legislative restraints are clearly practicable and necessary. Communism as an economic, social, and political theory is one thing. Communism as a secret conspiracy, dedicated to subverting the interests of the United States to that of a foreign dictatorship, is another.

"... A careful analysis of the strategy and tactics of communism in the United States discloses activities by reason of which the committee has concluded that legislation can and should be directed toward—

"(1) Making unlawful all activity which has as its purpose setting up a totalitarian government in the United States under foreign control.

"(2) In view of its foreign-directed character, requiring the Communist movement in the United States to operate in the open rather than underground.

"(3) Cutting the threads which bind the international Communist conspiracy together by restricting travel of members of the American section of the world Communist movement.

"(4) Protecting the integrity of the Government itself by denying Government employment to members of the American section of the world Communist movement.

"As will appear from a reading of the bill and the section-by-section explanation . . . the legislation herewith reported to the House contains provisions designed to accomplish the four objectives listed in the preceding paragraph."

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY LIFE

Some Observations

By REV. GEORGE G. HIGGINS

THE National Conference on Family Life was held in Washington, May 6-8, under the sponsorship of approximately 125 national organizations. Among the sponsoring organizations were the following Catholic groups: the National Catholic Conference on Family Life; the National Council of Catholic Women; the Family Life Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference; the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems; the National Catholic Educational Association; the National Conference of Catholic Charities; the National Council of Catholic Nurses of the United States. They were represented at the several sessions of the Conference by about fifteen or twenty delegates.

The Conference was rather peculiarly constituted. Back of the Conference originally was the Federal Security Agency, which used its good offices about two years ago to bring together a technical committee to plan the general outlines of the meeting. A coordinating director of program was appointed, but in the course of two years three different individuals served in this capacity, thus making for a decided lack of continuity in the work of the planning committee. Later a national committee of prominent persons was put in charge of planning for the Washington meeting, but it appears that this committee did relatively little. The last coordinating director of program was appointed early this year.

The sponsoring organizations, it would seem, had very little, if anything, to do with the planning of the final program. In effect, they were serving as sponsors, not of the program as such, but rather of the small committee which actually shaped up the program and conducted the affairs of the Conference. Presumably—as things worked out in the end—almost anyone was free to attend the sessions of the Conference on payment of the registration fee, whether he happened to be a member of one or other of the sponsoring organizations or not.

The announced purpose of the Conference was "to discover specific means by which the American family may be strengthened for the benefit of its individual members and society"; to "examine the modern postwar family and attempt to analyze the problems confronting it as a unit" and to "seek to present solutions to these problems"; and,

finally, to "develop programs of action aimed at achieving greater security for the family and its members, including mental and emotional as well as physical and economic security."

There were three different and distinct types of meeting in the course of the three-day conference:

1.) General or plenary sessions, with speeches and without discussion from the floor.

2.) Twenty-nine separate section or group meetings of approximately twenty persons for three sessions to discuss the Conference reports in terms of "The Founding Family," "The Expanding Family," and "The Contracting Family."

3.) Group meetings on the final afternoon to discuss in detail the reports which had been prepared in advance by specialists.

In general, it would be fair to say that the Conference was rather poorly organized. The method followed in the second type of meeting was particularly unwieldy in that the participants in each of the twenty-nine Section Meetings were brought together haphazardly without regard to their special interests or qualifications. As a result, the discussions tended to be either badly disorganized or too tightly controlled, depending largely upon the personality of the appointed discussion leaders. Undoubtedly some of the Sections engaged in a fruitful discussion; but by and large the total results of the twenty-nine meetings left much to be desired.

A similar, though somewhat less drastic, criticism can be leveled against the method of conducting the third type of meeting—the so-called Report Meetings. In a sense, these meetings attempted the impossible in proposing to discuss in detail, within the short space of two or three hours, the rather elaborate and sometimes very controversial topical reports which had been prepared in advance. Fortunately the participating organizations will have an opportunity to suggest revisions in these reports before they are published. If necessary, they may also submit minority reports for the record.

The purpose of the Conference, as outlined above, was good; and, in general, it may be said that the Conference, in spite of its unwieldiness, did have the wholesome effect of concentrating

(Turn to page 12)

CALENDAR OF SCHEDULED CATHOLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

June, 1948

- 6—CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF NURSING—meeting on nursing education, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 6-12—THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL PATTERN INSTITUTE—New York, N. Y.
- 7-10—CATHOLIC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA—33rd annual convention, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 7-12—SUMMER SCHOOL OF CATHOLIC ACTION—St. Louis, Mo.
- 12-18—STUDENTS SOCIAL ACTION INSTITUTE—Detroit, Mich.
- 12-19—INSTITUTE ON INDUSTRY AND FOURTH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL ACTION CHAIRMEN—Washington, D. C.
- 18-20—NATIONAL CATHOLIC LAYMEN'S RETREAT CONFERENCE—twelfth conference, St. Louis, Mo.
- 21-24—FRANCISCAN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE—29th annual meeting, Westmont, Ill.
- 25-27—NATIONAL CATHOLIC EVIDENCE CONFERENCE—15th Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, Ind.
- 28-Aug. 7—INSTITUTE OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL STUDIES—Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.

July, 1948

- 5-9—STREET PREACHING INSTITUTE—fourth annual, Carthage, Mo.
- 6-8—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—regional congress, Province of New York, Buffalo, N. Y.
- 12-15—YOUNG LADIES' GRAND INSTITUTE—annual convention, Stockton, Calif.
- 12-17—SUMMER SCHOOL OF CATHOLIC ACTION—Detroit, Mich.
- 13-16—CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA—biennial convention, Los Angeles, Calif.
- 26-31—SUMMER SCHOOL OF CATHOLIC ACTION—San Antonio, Tex.

August, 1948

- 2-6—LITURGICAL WEEK—ninth annual, Boston, Mass.
- 9-13—DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA—national convention, Boston, Mass.
- 9-14—SUMMER SCHOOL OF CATHOLIC ACTION—Washington, D. C.
- 16-19—National Liturgical Week, Boston, Mass.
- 16-21—SUMMER SCHOOL OF CATHOLIC ACTION—New York, N. Y.
- 21-25—CATHOLIC CENTRAL UNION OF AMERICA AND THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S UNION—annual convention, Milwaukee, Wis.
- 23-28—SUMMER SCHOOL OF CATHOLIC ACTION—Chicago, Ill.
- 24-26—CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA—general meeting, Dunwoodie, New York.
- 26-29—CATHOLIC STUDENTS' MISSION CRUSADE—13th national convention, Notre Dame, Ind.
- 30-Sept. 4—SUMMER SCHOOL OF CATHOLIC ACTION—Denver, Colo.

September, 1948

- 11-15—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN—24th national convention, New Orleans, La.
- 21-23—CATHOLIC COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTH—annual convention, Lexington, Ky.
- 25-27—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—regional congress, Province of Cincinnati, Columbus, Ohio.

October, 1948

- 9-13—NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES—annual meeting, Boston, Mass.
- 14-16—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—regional congress, Province of New Orleans, Lafayette, La.
- 17-18—LITHUANIAN AMERICAN CONGRESS—Chicago, Ill.
- 17-20—NATIONAL CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE CONFERENCE—annual convention, La Crosse, Wis. (Diocesan directors meeting on 15-16.)
- 19-21—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—regional congress, Province of San Antonio, Dallas, Tex.
- 26-28—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—regional congress, Province of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, N. Mex.

November, 1948

- 6-8—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—regional congress, Province of Boston, Manchester, N. H.
- 10-12—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—regional congress, Province of Baltimore, Jacksonville, Fla.

ACTIVITY ON MANY FRONTS

The Catholic Press—A Necessity

THE Catholic editor can no more honestly ignore the general world news picture than the Catholic individual can divorce his religion from his daily life.

This was the unifying theme of discussion—from formal addresses to table conversation—as sessions on “The Scourge of Secularism” brought leaders in the field of Catholic journalism to Cleveland, May 20 and 21, for the 38th annual convention of the Catholic Press Association. The theme was set by Bishop Michael J. Ready of Columbus, episcopal chairman of the Press Department, N.C.W.C., in his keynote address. “We hear much of the over-all view,” he said. “Yours is the only genuine over-all view, for it is a view which includes eternity.” Of the importance of the Catholic Press in reintegrating religion and life, Bishop Ready said: “In God’s wondrous Providence for His children, the Catholic Press today is an instrument required, necessary and indispensable. The Church without the Catholic Press would be a thing too appalling to contemplate.”

From the editor’s own viewpoint the theme was set forth by Joseph Breig, among others, of the staff of Cleveland’s *Catholic Universe Bulletin*, who said that if the Catholic paper separates religion and life, even negatively by failing properly to integrate them, it loses some readers. And the rest?—“The reader who stays with us naturally separates religion and life because we do it for him.” A Catholic newsman who “might be named co-respondent” in a “divorce between the Church and the world” is not only lazy, said Mr. Breig, but is guilty of “an unconscious kind of dishonesty.”

The Universe Bulletin, whose Catholic news philosophy Mr. Breig expressed, took top honors in the C.P.A.’s first annual journalism awards as the best-edited Catholic newspaper of the year.

In a statement on the year’s work of the N.C.W.C. *News Service*, Frank A. Hall, its director, noted a constantly increasing demand on Catholic publications that they “cover the nation and world ever more completely” and told the editors that “never before has there been so great a need for the Catholic Press to be Catholic in all meanings of that word.”

Integration of religion and life in the field of literature was discussed by Charles Brady of Canisius College, Buffalo, and in economics by the Rev. William Smith, S.J., of the Crown

Heights Labor School, Brooklyn. In a talk on “Secularism in World Affairs” Father James Keller, M.M., founder of the Christophers, outlined practical methods whereby Catholic editors can show determination “to bring Christian principles into the marketplace.”

Entering the marketplace of world events themselves, the editors closed their sessions with resolutions expressing concern for the shrines and Christian minority in the Holy Land; urging vigorous action by the President and Congress to restore basic human rights to Displaced Persons; and voicing determination to work with new vigor “to restore Christ as the light of truth to American thinking and living.”

Bishop Hoban of Cleveland offered the opening Pontifical Mass and read a message from the Holy Father. Bishop Gorman, assistant episcopal chairman of the Press Department, N.C.W.C., and Bishops Alter, McFadden, Begin, McDonnell and Dearden participated in various sessions. Bishop Ready was named Honorary President of the C.P.A. under a decision that the post will hereafter be held ex-officio by the N.C.W.C. Press Department’s Episcopal Chairman. The Rev. Paul Bussard, editor of the *Catholic Digest*, St. Paul, was elected president, succeeding Humphrey E. Desmond, of the *Catholic Herald Citizen*, Milwaukee. Other officers for the coming year are F. A. Fink, *Our Sunday Visitor*, vice-president; Rev. Aloysius F. Coogan, *Catholic Missions*, secretary; and George A. Pflaum, *Young Catholic Messenger*, treasurer.

—William H. Fanning, Jr., *News Editor*,
N.C.W.C. *News Service*.

Pax Romana Interfederal Assembly

CATHOLIC students representing federations from thirty-two countries of the five continents gathered in Spa, Belgium, shortly after Easter for the 1948 Interfederal Assembly of Pax Romana, International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS). The two principal groups in the United States, the National Federation of Catholic College Students and the Newman Club Federation, both constituents of the Youth Department, N.C.W.C., were represented at the Assembly by James E. Dougherty, of St. Joseph’s College, former President of N.F.C.C.S. and now Vice-President of Pax Romana.

The principal problems which the Assembly, the third since the end of the war, considered dur-

ng the week-long meeting were student relief, international cultural cooperation, and collaboration with other international organizations, including the UN.

After admitting eight new affiliates, including the U. S. Newman Club Federation, the new German Catholic Student Union, and other groups from South Africa, Hungary, Argentina, Canada and Portugal, the Assembly heard ample evidence of the fact that the greatest single task confronting the university community is still in the field of relief—material, intellectual and spiritual. The most urgent needs as reflected in the reports exist among the exiled students in Western Europe and the colonial students in the Far East. Pax Romana estimates that there are at least 12,000 Eastern European students, the great majority of whom are Catholics, now eking out a precarious, futureless existence in Germany, Austria, the Low Countries, and other nations in Western Europe. These have been forced to fare for themselves since the summer of 1946 when UNRRA closed out and they had either to leave the displaced persons' camps or discontinue their studies. Pax Romana appealed to its member federations to investigate within their respective countries the possibilities of permanently resettling these refugee students. That the situation is still in a state of flux was demonstrated by the news, received during the Assembly, that 200 Czech students who had fled their native land after the coup arrived at the borders of Holland seeking shelter during Easter Week. Meanwhile, as the question of resettlement is being tackled, Pax Romana and its members must continue to provide emergency assistance in the form of food, books, clothing and medicine.

The delegates at Spa were aware that the most important long range needs exist among the colonials, and accordingly they took preliminary steps toward developing Catholic student relations in India, China and Japan, with an eye to holding a regional Congress in that part of the world as early as possible, preferably the summer of 1949. Plans were also completed for sending representatives to the World Student Relief Conference and the International Student Service Assembly, scheduled for Burma in July.

Concerning international cultural cooperation among Catholic students, Pax Romana made public the work of its specialized sub-secretariates, designed for carrying on study and action in certain professional and technical fields. Noteworthy work has been done on "Profit Sharing" by the secretariate on Economic and Social Sciences; on "The Respect of the Human Person" by the Medical Secretariate; and on "Developing Social Responsibility" by the Secretariate on Social Action and Formation. The three groups plan to hold study weeks on these topics in Tilburg, Paris

and Luxembourg, respectively, all in July. Much of the work of these sub-secretariates is calculated to contribute to the program of the UN Economic and Social Council, with which Pax Romana is negotiating for Consultative Status. On this point Pere Dubois, O.P., reminded the Assembly that the United Nations, despite its political failure, is the most significant meeting ground for ideas ever established, and that for this reason it is highly desirable to have the Catholic student opinion of the world expressed within the UN and its specialized agencies.

The Assembly, before adjourning, decided to hold the 1949 Interfederal Assembly in conjunction with the Pax Romana Inter-American Congress in Mexico City next Easter Week. The themes for these two meetings will be "The Philosophy of University Reconstruction" and "The Social Problems of the Americas."

—James Dougherty, Vice-President, Pax Romana.

The Catholic Nurse of Today

THE National Council of Catholic Nurses, at its fourth biennial convention in Boston, Mass., challenged its members to obtain the highest standards within their profession, and moral and social culture within themselves, that the profession and the title "Nurse" regain and retain its prestige and value in the world of today.

Religion must be restored as a vital factor in psychiatry, the Reverend Dr. James E. Hayden, O.S.B., of the Catholic University of America, told the nurses. He added that the danger of modern psychiatry is that it banishes religion as unscientific. Frederick J. Rosentheim, M.D., professor at Boston College and Boston University, and a convert, said: "What can it profit a man to be well adjusted in a materialistic sense if he is not well adjusted in his relationship with God?" Reverend Francis Low, S.J., Boston College, said: "Catholic Action is needed strongly in the world of today."

The Council recommended to its members to become more aware of the responsibility their personal contribution can make to the Christian Social Order through greater realization of their part in the Mystical Body of Christ. It called attention to the necessity of interesting applicants in Schools of Nursing and the need of supplementing the recruitment program of its professional organizations. Due to the increased demands for the Professional Nurse of today, the advanced skills that she must be prepared in, it is evident that the shortage existing in the field of nursing can be lessened by increased enrollment in Schools of Nursing; by the promotion of standards of

nursing education; and the Registered Nurse assuming her place in giving service in these trying times.

The Catholic Schools of Nursing were encouraged to develop leadership in their field of education; and the members were asked to be mentally awake to the new developments in their profession; actively supporting those measures that were in line with Christian principles and for the good of the profession, and not only opposing those things that are of wrong principle, but assuming a position of constructive criticism and creation of better measures. The advancement in medicine, the change in methods of education indicate that the field of nursing cannot continue as of five, ten, or fifteen years ago. There are definite changes to be made—however, there is no change in the objective of nursing—"Service to the Patient—Service to Christ," and all Catholic nurses must respect the rights and freedom of man and recognize their duty to serve mankind in their chosen profession.

The members were urged to become active in the field of Public Health, to accept positions in non-Catholic agencies, the reason was the great good that the Catholic nurse can do in this field. To be women of worth—women of excellence in all activities, and not to stop until they had gained this place both in their spiritual and professional life.

Delegates from 28 states in the Union, representing 42 Dioceses, attended the convention, and evident throughout the 3-day meeting was the prayerful good wish of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, "that the meetings and deliberations of the National Council of Catholic Nurses be blessed with heavenly inspiration and all the fruitfulness of science and religion."

—Anne V. Houck, *Executive Secretary, National Council of Catholic Nurses.*

Student Leaders In Convention

BY a two to one majority Catholic student leaders rejected universal military training, but then supported selective service legislation with an even larger majority at the Fifth National Congress of the National Federation of Catholic College Students held in Philadelphia, Pa., under the patronage of His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, from April 22 to 29, 1948.

Deep concern about the situation in Europe was reflected in resolutions calling for the continuance of the Federation's "Student Relief Campaign" which netted \$150,000 for student relief during the past year, urging passage of legislation permit-

ting the admission of DP's into the U. S. and authorizing the setting up of summer rehabilitation camps for European students.

In the Federations' annual elections Charles Hogan, 20 year old Coast Guard veteran and sophomore at Cincinnati's Xavier University, was elected president; Tom Brickley of St. Vincent's College, Latrobe, Pa., first vice president; Bill Dietrich, St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kans., second vice president; Herb Ybarra, Loyola University, Los Angeles, third vice president; Robert Maher, St. Francis College, Brooklyn, treasurer.

Congress keynoter Rev. John Courtney Murray, S.J., of Woodstock College, Maryland, former associate editor of *America*, called on the students to enter public life, where today "we are not looked upon as companions but as strangers and partisans, with our own special interests, and there make friends, using our Christian love for men as our chief means."

Following the keynote address, Miss Patricia Burns, chairman of the Congress theme committee, presented the results of a poll of 5,000 student's views on the nature and purpose of education. The poll revealed that only twenty per cent of the collegians could give an "adequate" answer to the question: "What do you mean by the word 'education'?" Answers were marked "adequate" if they contained three concepts: development of intelligence, acquisition of knowledge, and character formation to an ideal.

In the spirited debate on the two preparedness resolutions John O'Leary of Manhattan College supported a compromise resolution calling for resumption of the draft, with the proviso that the legislation be renewable annually, while John Stanley, Villanova veteran of service with the R.A.F., called for Catholic support of their outspoken anti-communism with deeds.

Speakers at the meeting included Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. M. Coady, of Nova Scotia, cooperative pioneer; Hon. Gerald Flood of Philadelphia; Rev. Joseph E. Schieder, Ph.D., director of the Youth Dept., N.C.W.C.; Very Rev. Vincent J. Flynn, national chaplain of the N.F.C.C.S.; and Claude Julien, former French resistance leader. His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, presided at a solemn Pontifical Mass opening the Congress.

—John Simons, *Executive Secretary, N.F.C.C.S.*

First Local C.C.I.P.

FOR a number of years now it has been felt that in order to really do the job of spreading Catholic social teaching effectively, the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems would

have to become decentralized. For twenty-five years we have held meetings, nationally and regionally, and have accomplished a great deal. But all of this time we determined the success of our meetings not on the size of the crowd attending but rather on the work that grew out of the one- or two-day conferences.

Recently the Constitution was amended to provide for the setting up of local Catholic Conferences on Industrial Problems. The local group shall discuss and promote the study and understanding of industrial problems in the light of Catholic teaching. Its membership shall be open to all Catholics. It shall hold meetings for the discussion of industrial problems. It shall encourage the formation of small groups for industrial study and discussion. Each local group shall enjoy autonomy, but shall observe the provision of the Constitution that no vote shall be taken on questions of industrial policy. It shall have an Executive Committee composed of Chairman, Secretary and one Vice Chairman who shall be elected at annual meetings for a term of one year.

The National Conference, upon request, will advise the local groups about speakers, subject matter and current literature useful for discussion and study purposes.

The Diocese of Columbus, following the conference held there in April, formed the first local group. The group, known as the Columbus Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems, will be under the spiritual leadership of Father A. L. Winkler, diocesan director of Social Action. At the first meeting of the new group were representatives of labor, management and government, and representatives of the diocesan organizations, the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, the Holy Name Society and the Catholic Youth Council. Negro and white Catholics were there working together because they felt such an organization would be worthwhile and could fill a long-standing need.

Since it was an off-the-record meeting each person attending felt free to express his own opinion freely. A labor man boasted that because of the first Industrial Conference held there two years ago his union had better informed members and, because of that, better leadership. An employer countered, that because of the effect on the union, labor-management relations were better and the union was easier to deal with. One of the Negroes said that the Negro group was getting more consideration from both groups. While all of these points are excellent they are mere asides for the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems. Our main job is to spread Catholic social teaching. It does prove our point, though, that the more informed the laity is, the better off the laity is. We are in hopes that the Columbus Catholic Confer-

ence on Industrial Problems is merely the first of many.

—Rev. George G. Higgins, Secretary-Treasurer,
C.C.I.P.

Preparation For Leadership

ONE of the most significant features in the Catholic scene the past several months has been the outstanding development of Catholic student leadership both in Catholic student federations and in national and international organizations—a development that older groups have watched with attention and respect! Many of us (both students and old grads) who still think of student activity in terms of intramural athletics and arrangements for the Spring prom would be amazed to see some of the topics on the agenda of current student meetings—topics concerned not only with such problems as student government, but with international relations, economic life, race relations! And far from bringing a much-feared onslaught of immature leaps into many a kettle of hot water this responsible role, with each achievement, each contact with other groups and with non-Catholic students, has brought a new awareness of the importance of knowing just what are the Catholic principles and what they have to offer in the solution of questions met everywhere today.

Readiness to answer this challenge for a better knowledge of Catholic principles in the social and economic field, both through study and student activity, is indicated in the sponsorship by the Student Federations of two Institutes during the summer vacation—the Students Social Action Institute and the Pattern Institute on International Relations. Each Institute will bring together about one hundred student leaders from colleges throughout the country to hear outstanding experts discuss current problems in the light of Catholic teaching and, in workshop sessions, to incorporate the subject matter of the Institutes into their student programs for the coming year.

The Students Social Action Institute is being held for the first time and is jointly sponsored by the Newman Club Federation and the National Federation of Catholic College Students with the cooperation of the N.C.W.C. Social Action Department. Marygrove College and the University of Detroit are serving as host colleges. The program will provide the students attending an invaluable opportunity to discuss with leaders in the field the implications of the social teachings of the Church in such important areas as labor relations, labor-management problems, interracial justice, the establishment of a new social order. Committees on Student Social Action on the campus, in the community, on the national level,

will work throughout the week planning concrete activities which can be adapted to their program and separate Newman Club and NFCCS workshops will consider organizational techniques of Social Action in the respective Federations. Among the speakers scheduled are the Rev. George G. Higgins, assistant director of the N.C.W.C. Social Action Department, Paul Weber, vice president of the Michigan CIO Council and a member of ACTU, and the Rev. Raymond Clancy, Social Action director of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart and Manhattan College will provide residence for students attending the Fourth International Pattern Institute in New York, June 6 to June 12. Focusing on some of the basic issues in international life today, the program will provide discussion of these issues as found in present conditions and their proposed solution as found in the policies of Russia, the United States and the United Nations, and basically in Catholic principle. The Catholic Association for International Peace has provided the speakers for the Institute, among them Mr. P. T. S. Serrarens, secretary of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions; Rev. R. A. McGowan, director of the N.C.W.C. Social Action Department; Mrs. Anna Brady, director of the Center of Information *Pro Deo*; Rev. Wilfrid Parsons, S.J., of *America*; and others. One day of the Institute will be spent at the United Nations at Lake Success where students will have the opportunity to observe the Security Council and Commissions in session; another at the U. S. State Department Mission

where United States foreign policy and opportunities for foreign service careers will be discussed. Workshop meetings will evaluate the international relations programs of student organizations and the effectiveness of Catholic leadership in these programs. Sponsorship of this Institute is by the National Commission on International Relations of the National Federation of Catholic College Students.

—Kathleen McCann, Social Action Department,
N.C.W.C.

The Catholic Mother of 1948

A PHILADELPHIAN, Mrs. Richard T. McSorley, was chosen Catholic Mother of 1948 by the National Catholic Conference on Family Life. Announcement was made on the Feast of St. Monica, patroness of Christian mothers. The customary award, a medal from the Shrine of Christian Motherhood at St. Augustine, Florida, was given in her home parish, St. James, on Mother's Day, May 9.

Mrs. McSorley, formerly Marguerita Veronica Cosgrove, is the mother of fifteen children. One died in infancy. Eight are religious. Four of the latter have been and three still are foreign missionaries. Three of the children are married. Several of the younger children are still in school. All the children have attended Catholic schools.

The Catholic Mother's husband is a prominent Philadelphia lawyer. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Ross, pastor of St. James parish, had the highest word of praise for both Mr. and Mrs. McSorley.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY LIFE—Continued from page 6

public attention on the importance of good family living and on the more important problems which beset the American family of today.

The fact that some of the individuals and organizations participating in the Conference subscribe to the unethical philosophy of the so-called Planned Parenthood movement and similar movements was regrettable but not altogether unexpected. Fortunately, as things developed, they did not succeed in foisting their opinions on the Conference as a whole, although at times in the Section Meetings and in the Report Meetings some of them made the effort to do so, either directly, or indirectly in the discussion of such subjects as family counseling, sex education, etc.

Catholic participation in future conferences of this type, if and when they are convened, ought to be more extensive, not merely to forestall the promotion of unethical programs, but, even more important in the long run, to propagate the teaching of the Church on all phases of family living. Catholics possess a body of religious teaching on

the family which it is their duty to bring to their neighbors and to apply in a practical way to the manifold problems which today stand in the way of Christian family living. Our emphasis must be as positive and constructive as possible; and, above all, we must seek out trained Catholic leaders who will be willing to work diligently on the advance preparations for meetings of this type. As the Conference itself indicated, many non-Catholics and non-Catholic organizations are deeply and sincerely interested in the ethical approach to family problems and are most anxious to have the Catholic point of view expressed and explained.

Negatively, Catholics and Catholic organizations have the right to insist that future conferences of this type exclude the discussion of such subjects as birth control and to insist, too, that subjects such as family counseling and sex education, if they are to be discussed at all, be discussed on their merits and not from the point of view of an unethical philosophy of life.

CATHOLIC ACTION STUDY DEPARTMENT

Catholic Action Study in Maynooth College

By

REV. DR. P. McKEVITT, Professor of
Catholic Action, St. Patrick's College, Ireland

THE introduction of a special course of Catholic Action into Maynooth, made possible through the generosity of the Knights of Saint Columbanus, had to be effected with an eye to the time-table. The program of study had been already expanded to meet the needs of the times. Consequently we were concerned to distribute the new burden in such a manner that it would cause the minimum of disturbance to the old curriculum. The new studies were confined to the students of the Faculty of Theology, and in fact, while a minority of younger students were admitted to one of the study-circles, the full course was obligatory only for the students of the two upper classes. The study-circles are voluntary but a very high proportion of the students follow them. Indeed more extensive provision had to be made to avoid the creation of unwieldy groups in which intimate discussion would be impossible.

The Fourth Divines—students in their last year—are given a formal lecture on Catholic Action each week. This follows the usual lines, in part at least. The official documents are expounded and the doctrinal and juridical aspects of the institution are explained. To make this exposition realistic, the various types of organization existing elsewhere are brought under review. There is no question of an exhaustive survey, but a selection is made of those movements which have proved successful and which give promise of being adaptable to Irish conditions.

Next, our own associations come up for examination. The main purpose of this is to fit the students to guide these societies when the responsibility of the pastoral ministry is thrust on them. But from an examination of this kind a general idea of our organizational needs is formed; the problems which must be faced in contemporary society emerge more clearly. The social question is then viewed in its concrete circumstances. The relations existing between management and labor are judged from the standpoint of the social encyclicals. It is here that the question of conquest,

insofar as it must be directed by the priest, comes up for consideration, and the technique of running social clubs and study-circles is dealt with. Naturally the subject matter of such a course will not be invariable but the general objectives will be unchanged.

The work of formation is approached more directly in the study-circle. Here the students make a more personal contribution. One of the social encyclicals is chosen and a number of themes are selected from it. These are circulated at the beginning of the year and a student picks a subject on which he undertakes to write a paper. To help him with his task he receives a certain amount of personal direction and guidance in the use of the library. This gives the students an opportunity of getting acquainted with the literature of the subject as well as providing practice in composition and public speaking. The discussions which follow the reading of the paper help to clear up difficulties and also to apply the doctrine to actual conditions. Their general effect is to give the student a composite picture of our social deficiencies and of possible remedies.

All this would be scarcely possible without the general course of social science which is spread over the last two years of the students life in college. But the practical work serves to drive home the impression that the object of the whole course is to improve what is good, and correct whatever is defective in our national life. When we insist that Catholic Action must be intelligent action, we are really saying that we must bridge the gulf between theory and practice. This is our constant preoccupation. Instead of term examinations we sometimes have an essay on a local problem which can only be written by one who has been trained to observe. In this way we hope to give the students an orientation towards social problems which will fit them for their work among the people. In this we are following the traditional ideal of Maynooth which aims at the formation of hardworking, intelligent and zealous missionary priests.

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS!

This year the July and August issues of CATHOLIC ACTION will be combined and issued about the fifteenth of July. We hope our readers will bear with us in this small effort at economy.

NATIONAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC WOMEN

New Orleans Bound! —
Woman's Responsibility Today
— International Visitors —
News Round-up

NEW ORLEANS BOUND!

EMELDA A. ZIEGAN

We are pleased to bring our readers this article on the New Orleans Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, host council for the Twenty-fourth National Convention, written by Miss Ziegan, historian of the New Orleans A.C.C.W.

ARE you coming to New Orleans for the N.C.C.W. Convention, September 11-15? Are you all packed? All aboard for New Orle-e-e-ans! All - a - boa - r - r - d!

As you entrain, let us begin the story of our beloved leader, The Most Reverend Joseph Francis Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, and the federation, the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, who are to be your hosts at the convention.

When The Most Reverend John W. Shaw, eighth Archbishop of New Orleans, died in 1934, the See remained unoccupied until March 9, 1935 when The Most Reverend Joseph Francis Rummel, then Bishop of Omaha, received the Papal Bull of appointment.

One of the first tasks His Excellency undertook was the establishment of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women under the direction of Right Rev. Msgr. Peter M. H. Wynhoven. Its well-defined purpose, as stated by Archbishop Rummel at the first official general meeting, held October 29, 1936, is "to initiate, unify, and coordinate for Catholic Action the married and single women of the Archdiocese through their respective parish societies and existing sodalities, organizations, and circles." It has for its primary aim the establishing of God's kingdom on earth and the greater sanctification of the individual members of groups affiliated with the council.

Metropolitan Area was the first locality federated, the initial meeting being held January 25, 1937. Three days later, the Baton Rouge Deanery Council was set up. This Deanery consisted of a northern and a southern division, but on April 26, 1944, Archbishop Rummel made the southern division a separate unit, known as the Reserve Deanery. In quick succession the Covington, Thibodaux, and Hammond Deanery Councils were formed. The last deanery council to be formed was that of Donaldsonville on October 29, 1937. When the work of establishing the various deanery councils was completed, the

Archdiocesan Board was chartered on August 8, 1937, and Dr. Maud Loeber became the first president.

Doctor Loeber served as president from 1937 to 1940, when she was succeeded by Miss Mercedes Discon, of New Orleans, who served four years. Mrs. Dan Meaney, of Baton Rouge, headed the Archdiocesan Council from 1944 to 1946 and Miss Elsie Mary Vulliet, of New Orleans, present incumbent, was elected to serve from 1946 to 1948.

The standing committees of the New Orleans A.C.C.W. are Legislation, Press, Library, Organization, Altar Society, Scouting, Shrines, Sodality, Post War, Parent-Teacher Associations, Chaplain's Aid, Interparochial, History, and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

The death of Monsignor Wynhoven in 1944 brought sadness to the Council. His able leadership and guidance through the early years of the federation was an invaluable asset to the work. However, the pain of his loss has been lessened somewhat by the appointment by His Excellency of a capable, zealous, and deeply religious successor, Very Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Beauvais.

As your train approaches New Orleans, I cannot help inviting you to look out of your window. There is our city—one of the nation's most beautiful. And it is the second port of the United States, too. The corporate limits of New Orleans embrace the whole of Orleans Parish, an area of 196 square miles. The topography of the region has undergone great changes since its founding and there are beautiful residences where once there were swamps. New Orleans has two spacious parks, Audubon and City. It boasts many skyscrapers and modern structures. Its cemeteries are unique. The bridge across the Mississippi River at New Orleans, an outstanding engineering feat, is almost 4½ miles long—one of the longest bridges in the world. The streets, avenues, and boulevards are broad and bordered with trees. A system of levees protects the city from seasonal

floods. It is an important railroad as well as manufacturing center. Trade, foreign and domestic, abounds here.

La Nouvelle Orleans was founded in 1718 by Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville. The Vieux Carre de la Ville is——

Oh! here comes the porter for our bags. We are nearing the station. "Next stop, New Orleans. Lady, shall I take your grips?"

D.C.C.W. CONVENTIONS POINT UP WOMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TODAY

THAT woman, especially the Catholic woman, has a grave responsibility in today's world was brought out forcefully in the discussions of recent diocesan council conventions. That the Catholic woman is meeting this responsibility was equally evident in the reports presented.

Indianapolis . . . Approximately 2,000 women gathered in Lafayette, Indiana, April 16-18, for the first Indianapolis Provincial Convention. The Most Reverend Ordinary from each of the four dioceses of the province was present: Their Excellencies, Archbishop Paul C. Schulte, of Indianapolis; Bishops John F. Noll, of Fort Wayne; John G. Bennett, of Lafayette; and Henry J. Grimmelsman, of Evansville. In the keynote sermon, Archbishop Schulte answered the question: "What can I do to help stem the head-long rush to destruction?", saying: "No individual can reform all of the world, but every individual can reform a part of it . . . We are happy to see that the general theme of your deliberations is to be centered around the home, for there your influence is the greatest. And from there it spreads out to your own neighborhood and community." The theme, "The Strengthening of Home Life," was presented in four half-hour discussions by women from each of the dioceses. Mrs. Rollin Turner, national director, Province of Indianapolis, presided at one of the sessions. The values of family life were stressed by Rev. Edward J. Dowling, S.J., and Rev. Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B., director, N.C.W.C. Family Life Bureau. The convention closed with Benediction, at which the Most Rev. William T. Mulloy, Bishop of Covington, spoke on The Family Rosary.

Nashville . . . Most Rev. William L. Adrian, Bishop of Nashville, celebrated the Mass opening the Nashville D.C.C.W. 12th annual convention, April 8, which brought together over 300 women, and later delivered an inspiring address. Dr. Max Jordan, foreign correspondent of the National Broadcasting Company, spoke on "The Stake in Europe." A beautiful shrine of Our Lady was in the ballroom of the hotel throughout the convention. Mrs. Joseph Boillin, president, Nashville

Council, and 2nd vice-president, N.C.C.W., presided. Reports showed increased interest in needy missions, P.-T.A., radio and youth work.

Monterey-Fresno . . . With the theme, "Christian Education," the 18th annual convention of the Monterey-Fresno D.C.C.W., held April 11-12, was urged by Most Rev. Aloysius J. Willinger, C.S.S.R., Coadjutor Bishop of Monterey-Fresno, to "work unitedly for Christian education." Speakers included Rev. Patrick Hannon, diocesan youth director, who warned that the attack on Christian belief once directed at adults is today concentrated on youth, and Rev. Francis X. Singleton, diocesan DP resettlement director, who asked the women to help find homes for the DPs. Mrs. Raymond Jehl was elected president, succeeding Mrs. Margaret Stanley.

Savannah-Atlanta . . . Cabled greetings and the blessing of the Holy Father were sent the 9th annual convention of the Savannah-Atlanta D.C.C.W., April 17-18, by Most Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara, Bishop of Savannah-Atlanta, now serving as Regent of the Apostolic Nunciature in Bucharest. Rev. John Toomey urged council groups to actively oppose secularism, commending their participation in the recent state Family Life Conference in Atlanta. Mrs. William J. McAlpin, national director, Province of Baltimore, told of the N.C.C.W. summertime campaign for new garments for the Holy Father's Storerooms. The convention reelected Mrs. William J. O'Shaughnessy president.

Seattle . . . The Seattle D.C.C.W., in convention April 25-27, elected Mrs. George Downer, of Olympia, president to succeed Mrs. Richard C. Schank, who was retiring after having served eight years. Resolutions were passed pledging support to the National Council and endorsing its resolutions.

Corpus Christi . . . Five hundred women attending the 3rd annual convention of the Corpus Christi D.C.C.W., April 26, which considered the theme, "The Catholic Woman in Today's World," were told by Most Rev. Robert E. Lucey, Archbishop of San Antonio, that the apathy and lethargy displayed by Christians in the past is responsible for present world chaos. The sermon at the opening Mass, celebrated by Most Rev. E. B. Ledvina, Bishop of Corpus Christi, was delivered by Most Rev. M. S. Garriga, Coadjutor Bishop of Corpus Christi. Sessions were presided over by Mrs. C. T. Weir, president.

St. Augustine . . . Pontifical Mass, celebrated by Most Rev. Thomas J. McDonough, Auxiliary Bishop of St. Augustine, opened the 18th and largest annual convention of the St. Augustine

D.C.C.W., April 26-28. Rev. Patrick Nolan, S.T.D., pastor of St. Joseph's Parish, Lakeland, preached. Speakers included Bishop McDonough; Rev. James Keller, M.M., director of The Christophers; Rev. P. J. O'Connor, Catholic University of America; Rev. George W. Cummings, St. Augustine; Mrs. Robert A. Angelo, national chairman, Committee on Family and Parent Education; Sister Trinita, Barry College; and Miss Margaret Connolly, who spoke on "The Pope's Battalions Against Communism." Mrs. J. W. McCollum, national chairman, Committee on War Relief, urged each D.C.C.W. member group to participate in the clothing drive for the Holy Father's Storerooms. Mrs. Rodney Lake is the new president, succeeding Mrs. Leo LaBelle.

St. Louis . . . The 25th annual convention of the St. Louis A.C.C.W., held April 28-29, with nearly 2,000 women in attendance, was the occasion taken by Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, Archbishop of St. Louis, to launch an intensive expansion and development program for the Archdiocesan Council. His Excellency outlined a broad field of action comprising eight of the national committees and based the new activities on the parish council plan. The convention was honored with the presence of five members of the Hierarchy: Archbishop Ritter and the Most Reverends William J. Condon, Christopher E. Byrne, Michael J. Ready, and John P. Cody, Bishops of Great Falls, Galveston, Columbus, and Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis, respectively. Miss Margaret M. Kelly, field secretary, N.C.C.W., spoke at the luncheon on "The N.C.C.W. at Home and Abroad." The convention reelected Mrs. George A. McCalpin president. In his sermon at the Solemn Pontifical Mass closing the convention, celebrated by Archbishop Ritter, Bishop Ready said that the N.C.C.W. and the St. Louis A.C.C.W. offer women the opportunity for intelligent action against the social evils of the day.

Portland, Maine . . . A youth program in which Scout units and sodality groups participated opened the 16th annual convention of the Portland, Me., D.C.C.W., April 30-May 1 and 2. The 200 delegates were told by Most Rev. Daniel J. Feeney, Auxiliary Bishop of Portland, that Christianity faces the most serious threat since the Roman persecutions, secularism. His Excellency urged the women to take increased interest in promoting the cause of Christian living. Mrs. William Dalton was elected president to succeed Mrs. Grover Bradbury.

Mrs. J. Selby Spurck, first vice president, N.C.C.W., was a speaker at the civic reception welcoming the Most Rev. James F. A. McIntyre as Archbishop of Los Angeles.

* * *

Dr. Maud Loeber, first president of the New Orleans A.C.C.W. and former second vice president, N.C.C.W., received one of the two annual awards made by the New Orleans Federation of Women's Clubs. Doctor Loeber is director of the medical program of the Associated Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese.

* * *

Most Rev. Urban J. Vehr, Archbishop of Denver, was honored guest at the meeting of the Denver Deanery Council, April 19, which marked the formal opening of the executive office of the Denver A.C.C.W., necessitated by the steady growth of the Council, now numbering 104 affiliations.

* * *

The N.C.C.W., one of the 125 national sponsoring organizations of the National Conference on Family Life, held in Washington, D. C., May 5-8, was represented at the Conference by Mrs. Robert A. Angelo and Miss Catherine Jarboe, national chairman and secretary, respectively, of the Committee on Family and Parent Education; Mrs. Sargent White, Northern Deanery Council president, Richmond D.C.C.W.; Mrs. Harry J. Kirk, of Washington, D. C., Sodality Union member; and Miss Mabel Shannon, administrative assistant, N.C.W.C. Youth Department. Five nurses, representing the National Council of Catholic Nurses, N.C.C.W. affiliate, also attended the sessions.

* * *

Miss Helen M. Ganey and Mrs. Charles Sullivan, president and secretary of the Chicago A.C.C.W., were guests at the open meeting on the unity of womankind which culminated interracial week activities at Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois. Discussion centered on women's participation in bettering interracial relations.

* * *

Miss May Q. Garthar, diocesan chairman, Catholic Clerical Student Fund, Inc., advises that seven burses of \$8,000 each, making a total of \$56,000, were completed by March 13, 1948, by the District Councils of the Galveston D.C.C.W.

* * *

Mrs. Agnes Hope Kahler, president of the Auxilium of St. Joseph, Dade City, Florida, affiliate of the St. Augustine D.C.C.W., recently received two awards for her work in behalf of Negroes, a citation from His Holiness Pope Pius XII and the Distinguished Service Cross of the Florida Tuber-

culosis and Health Association. For 20 years, Mrs. Kahler, executive secretary of the Pasco County Tuberculosis and Health Association, has led the fight against tuberculosis in Pasco County and rendered a service far above the usual call of duty.

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"Watch and Pray," words from His Holiness Pope Pius XII's Easter Message, have been selected as the theme for the annual spring series of 22 meetings under the sponsorship of the Chicago A.C.C.W.

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The Regina Matrum Award, annual honor bestowed upon an outstanding Catholic mother of the Archdiocese of New Orleans by the Council of Catholic School Cooperative Clubs of the Archdiocese, has been awarded to Mrs. Henry Kirsch.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Mlle. M. Baers, Brussels, Belgium, member of the Bureau of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues and chairman of its Commission on social action; secretary general of the Catholic International Union of Social Service, which federates internationally Catholic schools of social service and associations of Catholic social service workers; and a senator in the Belgian parliament, visited N.C.W.C. and N.C.C.W., discussing social welfare and social action.

The Baroness Elisabeth de Guttenberg, Munich, Germany, president of the Catholic Women's Relief Committee of Bavaria, which coordinates the relief work of the League of German Catholic Women (an affiliate of I.U.C.W.L.) and Caritas Verband, visited N.C.W.C. and N.C.C.W. She brought out four points: The desperate need of relief, particularly clothing, the latter especially for the "expellee" groups and the returning prisoners of war; the need for CARE packages to supplement meager rations; the need for spiritual encouragement, which can be accomplished through correspondence, and through inter-country visiting; the need for scholarships to train leaders for Germany.

Senorita Stella de Faro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, president of Brazilian Women's Catholic Action (affiliated with I.U.C.W.L.), in a recent visit to N.C.C.W. headquarters, described the main facets of their work: Training members to teach religion; strengthening family life; social welfare.

A common point of interest and emphasis on the part of these three leaders was the importance and responsibility of Catholics to be alert, informed, active, to exchange experiences, to work together in the Mystical Body of Christ—in

Christian solidarity—for the restoration of a Christian society.

All three of these visitors were in this country for the International Conference of Social Work.

Rev. Jean Courtois, member of the Superior Council of Justice of the French Government, and Miss Agnes Lebreton, of Sable, France, were also recent visitors to the N.C.C.W. from abroad.

N.C.C.C. AND N.C.C.W. SPONSOR TEA

During the recent meeting in Atlantic City of the National and International Conferences of Social Work, the National Conference of Catholic Charities and the National Council of Catholic Women held a reception and tea to honor the foreign delegates to the Conference. Over 275 guests from 23 foreign nations, 17 states and the District of Columbia of the United States attended.

Among those in the receiving line for the National Conference of Catholic Charities were Miss Rose McHugh, vice-president, Right Rev. Msgr. John O'Grady, secretary, and Miss Florence Mason, past president. Mrs. Thomas J. Smith, N.C.C.W. director, Province of Newark, and Miss Lucy Quinn, of the Catholic Daughters of America, Atlantic City, and general chairman of arrangements for the tea, received the guests for the National Council of Catholic Women. Mrs. Robert D. Donaldson, president of the Paterson D.C.C.W., was among those presiding at the tea tables.

WITH OUR NATIONALS

Catholic Daughters of America . . . The program of the C.D.A. convention, to be held at the Huntington Hotel, Pasadena, California, July 12-16, is being planned by Miss Mary C. Duffy, supreme regent. Convention Chairman is Mrs. Emma McIntosh, San Diego, California; Transportation Chairman, Miss Marie Curry, Belle Rose, Long Island, New York.

National Council of Catholic Nurses . . . The 4th biennial convention of the N.C.C.N., held May 7-9 in Boston, noted that many of its affiliates, in addition to various types of service rendered by their members, have established service for the sick poor of the diocese; adopted foreign missions, sending medical supplies, text books for nursing schools, linens, clothing, and other supplies; one council has established a pre-natal clinic with nurses serving on a volunteer basis. The membership committee reported an increase of eight councils since 1946, bringing total councils to forty-five. Miss Estelle Mann, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, was elected president.

NATIONAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC MEN

The N.C.C.M. and You—
Radio Schedule for June

THE N.C.C.M. HELPS YOU—AND YOU HELP THE N.C.C.M.

THE National Council of Catholic Men has constantly presented a program of prayer, study and action based upon the plea of the Holy Father for concerted action of the laity in mutual and official cooperation with the Hierarchy. Not only the present Pope, but his immediate predecessors as well, particularly Pope Pius XI, called for the laity to be organized and to participate actively and directly in the apostolate of the Church with the assistance of the clergy and under a commission from the Bishop. The Holy Father has given the name "Catholic Action" to this official, organized participation, and it is the mind of the Church that the laity should exercise its own competence in "lay" surroundings, industrial, professional and rural, to overcome paganism and secularism and build up a Christian way of life in all walks of the world. The laity often can get at other laymen and non-Catholics in their own surroundings which the priest cannot touch. And it is here that the battle of religion versus materialism is raging today. But there is no struggle among the pious people of the parish church.

Prayer

Prayer is necessary, as everybody knows, not only to make a man better himself, but is absolutely essential to give him the grace to carry his Faith into his business and working surroundings.

The N.C.C.M. urges its affiliated organizations, whether parish Holy Name Societies, Knights of Columbus Councils, Diocesan Councils of Catholic Men, or state and national organizations, to sponsor group prayers, particularly the family rosary. At present, as a very definite and specific plan, the National Council calls upon its affiliates to urge their members, individually and with their families, to say the rosary, daily if possible, with a particular intention in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, imploring her for the conversion of Russia—as she promised in 1917.

Study

Knowledge is power; and knowledge of what God wants men to do gives them power over evil forces and power to overcome ignorance, with the prejudice and hatred which so often flow from it. And particularly it gives them power over

themselves, that is to say, it gives them confidence that they know what they're talking about.

The way to get knowledge is to study; and experience shows that the most interesting way to study is by discussion. Hence the N.C.C.M. urges its affiliated groups to form Discussion Clubs or get into those already going.

Discussion Clubs, as recommended by the National Council, may be either *Religious* or *Social Action*.

Religious Discussion Clubs enable a man to become better acquainted with the doctrines and practices of the Church. And when he learns them by *discussion* he gets accustomed to talking about religion, and consequently doesn't get confused and self-conscious when some non-Catholic asks him a question.

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine has specialized in Religious Discussion Clubs for many years and knows what it takes to make them work. We suggest you write N.C.C.M. for a copy of the C.C.D. booklet on the subject.

Social Action Discussion Clubs can work on such matters as Industrial Relations; Communism; International Affairs; Family Life Problems; Legislation; etc. If you want some help for discussion clubs in any of these fields just write national headquarters. N.C.C.M. is a service agency for the benefit of its affiliated organizations, having at its disposal the great reservoir of information and material from all the departments and bureaus of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Action

The Holy Father crystallized what was in the mind of many Catholics, when he said on September 8, 1947: "The time for reflection and planning is past; now is the time for action."

The laity, the Holy Father says, must be *organized* and its action to be effective, must be *organized* action.

Three or four men who are sincerely interested, precisely because they see the need of assisting the parish priest, can be the spark plugs of organized action. The ideal procedure calls for the pastor to sit down with these men, individually if possible, to discuss with them what the Church means by the "participation of the laity in the apostolate

of the Hierarchy." The N.C.C.M. has available materials necessary for this training of lay leaders.

If the initiative is taken by the leaders of the Holy Name Society, or any established group of men in the parish, so much the better. It goes without saying that the parish "spark plugs" should work hand in hand with existing organizations, in order that the full impact of parish strength may be marshaled.

Observing the successful experience of many of its affiliates, N.C.C.M. would recommend that consideration be given to the establishment of the Block Leader or Block Warden system as a means of building a strong and virile parish Catholic Action program.

And here are a couple of practical suggestions from your N.C.C.M. fellow affiliates who have adopted this plan: To operate the Block Leader system effectively, you must have a very small area for each man—not over a small city block in town, or, in the rural parish, a section of the country which contains only about ten or a dozen Catholic families. It may not be possible to obtain a volunteer for every block or section; but get one wherever possible and concentrate on the areas thus covered.

The establishment of the Block Warden systems is nothing new. Many parishes have had it working for years; and with good success. Give it all you've got and don't quit till it's working well. Our affiliates testify that it's hard labor at first but it pays off. It works wonders, for example, in building up the Holy Name; and the pastor finds it indispensable for keeping track of newcomers, etc., to say nothing about distributing important material when necessary.

Once the plan is set up and in operation, our affiliates have pointed out, the field is wide open for countless worthwhile projects. The Block Leader system is good when it comes to assisting the St. Vincent de Paul Society to locate persons in need of the Society's services; or gathering clothes and food for homeless and hungry men, women and children in Europe; or finding homes and work for Displaced Persons; or taking a parish census; or getting children into Catholic schools; or helping in diocesan programs, like Closed Retreats; or Days of Recollection for Men.

N.C.C.M. Helps

From our files and from our personal contacts with groups of men at work in the lay apostolate, here are a few additional activities concerning which N.C.C.M. is in a position to supply information: How to get Catholic radio programs on local stations; Narberth Catholic information articles for publication in local papers, and leaflets for distribution by mail to non-Catholics; rid newsstands of objectionable magazines; enroll the

families of the parish in the Holy Family Association; establish the Lay Legion (union of Catholic families in a parish); build up radio listening audience for national or local Catholic programs already on the air; successful Holy Hour for men; nocturnal adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; Catholic Evidence Guild (street and park teaching by laymen); Catholic youth work; speakers bureau; St. Vincent de Paul salvage bureau.

We have only scratched the surface, for you know as well as we that there is no end to the list of good works to be done. The hardest problem, of course, is to sell men in the parish on the importance of sacrificing their time and labor in the furtherance of the parish program.

The program of the N.C.C.M. is to promote Catholic Action. Catholic Action is the program of the Church. And the program of the Church is to restore all things in Christ.

RADIO SCHEDULE—JUNE, 1948

THE CATHOLIC HOUR

Sundays, 6:00 P. M., EDT, NBC Network

June 6—REV. JOSEPH SCHIEDER, Director, Youth Department, N.C.W.C.

"Modern Youth—Our Most Precious Heritage"

June 13—REV. JOHN J. CRONIN, S.S., Assistant Director, Social Action Dept., N.C.W.C.

"Leadership in the Modern World"

June 20—REV. DONALD A. MCGOWAN, Director, Health and Hospital Bureau, N.C.W.C.

"The Church and Health Care"

June 27—RT. REV. MSGR. FREDERICK HOCHWALT, Director of Education Department, N.C.W.C.

"Are You Satisfied With Your Schools?"

THE HOUR OF FAITH

Sundays, 11:30 A. M., EDT—ABC Network

REV. THOMAS S. HANSBERRY, Assistant Pastor, St. Joseph's Cathedral and Diocesan Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Manchester, N. H.

Subject: "The Love of God"

June 6—The Love of God the Creator

June 13—The Love of God the Provider

June 20—The Love of God the Redeemer

June 27—The Love of God the Sanctifier

FAITH IN OUR TIME

Thursdays, 10:15 A. M., EDT—MBS Network

REV. HOWARD J. RAFFERTY, O.Carm.

Assistant Provincial, Carmelite Priory of St. Cyril, Chicago

Subject: "Message to the World"

June 3—Fatima in Focus

June 10—Francis Marto and the Mother of God

June 17—The Beautiful Lady

June 24—The Angel of Peace

Month by Month with the N.C.W.C.

Death Comes to Bishop Takach of Greek Rite Diocese

The first Bishop of the Greek Rite Diocese of Pittsburgh—The Most Rev. Basil Takach, Titular of Zela and Apostolic Exarch for Podocarpethian Ruthenians of Byzantine Rite in the United States, has just died in Pittsburgh after a long illness at the age of 69 years.

Bishop Takach's Greek Rite Diocese, which was established in 1924, extends over thirteen states. Almost 200,000 faithful were under his jurisdiction. He will be succeeded by his Coadjutor, Bishop Daniel Ivancho, Titular of Europus.

Bishop Takach was a native of the village of Vuchkov in the Carpatho-Ukraine, which at that time was Hungarian territory. He was ordained in 1902 and for the following twenty-two years served in his home diocese. Upon coming to his assignment as the first Bishop of Greek Rite Catholics in the United States in 1924, Bishop Takach became the Shepherd of Russian, Hungarian and Croatian nationalities in the entire United States and is mourned by them today.

May his soul rest in peace.

Monsignor O'Dowd Becomes Auxiliary to Archbishop Mitty

As CATHOLIC ACTION goes to press word has been received of the appointment of Monsignor James Thomas O'Dowd, superintendent of schools of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, to be Titular Bishop of Cea and Auxiliary to Archbishop John J. Mitty of San Francisco.

Bishop-elect O'Dowd was born in San Francisco in 1907 and was ordained in that city in 1932. He made post-graduate studies at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., receiving the degree Doctor of Philosophy in Education in 1935; served as assistant superintendent of schools in the San Francisco Archdiocese before becoming superintendent, and was for a while assistant pastor of St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, Oakland, Calif.

CATHOLIC ACTION extends all good wishes to His Excellency.

N.C.W.C. Printing of "Mediator Dei" Ready July First

Distribution of "Mediator Dei," Encyclical Letter of Pope Pius XII on the Sacred Liturgy, will be begun by the N.C.W.C. Publications Office on July 1. The 80-page booklet contains a discussion outline and suggested religious practices. It is priced at 25c per copy, \$19.75 per 100, plus postage.

N.C.W.C. News Service Sponsors New Catholic Service for China

With the cooperation of the N.C.W.C. News Service, through its Far East correspondent—Rev. Patrick O'Connor of St. Columban's—a new Catholic news service has been inaugurated in China under the title "Hua Ming," which may be translated "China Light."

The new Service is being slanted to the general secular press for the reading public of China is practically 99 per cent non-Christian.

Hua Ming's news from abroad will be taken largely, by special arrangement, from N.C.W.C. News Service releases. *Hua Ming*, which has established contacts with 60 correspondents throughout China, will relay its China news to the N.C.W.C. News Service in Washington.

Holy Father Honors Father Tanner With Rank of Papal Chamberlain

Announcement has recently been made by Archbishop Moses E. Kiley of Milwaukee of the elevation by His Holiness Pope Pius XII of the Rev. Paul F. Tanner, assistant general secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and editor of CATHOLIC ACTION, to the rank of Papal Chamberlain with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor. Father Tanner is a priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, but has served as Assistant General Secretary of the N.C.W.C. since March, 1945, succeeding Monsignor Howard J. Carroll, who had been advanced to General Secretary. Prior to that he had been Director of the N.C.W.C. Youth Department. He became editor of CATHOLIC ACTION in 1943.

CATHOLIC ACTION—MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE

"We have grouped together, under the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the various agencies by which the cause of religion is furthered. Each of these, continuing its own special work in its chosen field, will now derive additional support through general cooperation."

—From the 1919 Pastoral Letter of the Archbishops and Bishops of the U. S.

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